

# Continuous Lap Sleeve Placket

12.340

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In blouses and shirts, the lower sleeve opening is important to allow dressing ease, and the most common finish is a continuously bound placket above the cuff.

The size and length of the placket are indicated on the sleeve pattern, and the opening looks like a long, thin triangle, similar to the legs of a dart.

### Band Preparation

When you cut out the garment, cut the placket binding from the same fabric. It can be on the straight grain, or on the bias, depending on the fabric and your preference. Plaids and stripes are often cut on the bias for a decorative effect.

The placket band should be 1 1/4" wide and twice as long as the placket opening marking, plus 1".

Press under one long edge of the band 1/4".

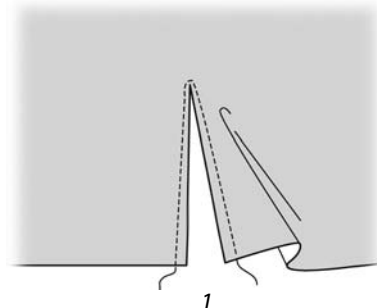
### Placket Opening

Transfer the placket markings to the garment sleeve using a removable marking method, like tracing paper or a water- or air-soluble marker. Put a clearly visible dot at the point, as this will be the upper opening of the placket, and the pivot point of the stitching during the binding process.

To reinforce the opening, stitch along the triangle legs, shortening the stitch length to 15 stitches per inch as you approach the point. At the point, pivot the stitching by leaving the needle in the fabric and lifting the presser foot, then stitch down the other side, returning the stitch length to normal about 1" from the point.

Carefully slash between the stitching lines all the way

to the point, being careful not to clip into the threads (1).



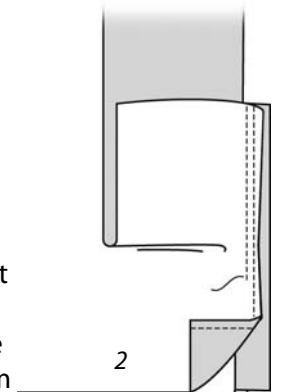
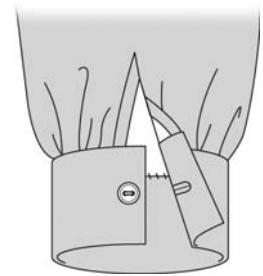
### Placket Binding

Spread the slashed area open and pin the raw edges to the unpressed binding edge. Align the reinforcement stitching with the band 1/4" seam allowance. Note that the sleeve seam allowance will be 1/4" at the ends, but tapering to near nothing in the center.

Stitch the band to the sleeve opening using an even 1/4" seam allowance and being careful not to stitch a tuck at the placket point (2). Stitching at the point will catch only a few threads of the sleeve fabric. Press the seam flat as stitched.

To finish the placket, fold the band to the sleeve wrong side and barely cover the stitching line with the folded edge. Pin it in place and hand stitch to the sleeve wrong side along the stitching line (3).

As an option, the binding may be stitched on the sleeve opening wrong side and turned to the right side, then edgestitched in place by machine. Another option is cut a wider binding (1 3/4") and apply the binding strip



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as a folded double layer. When turned the binding fold covers the previous stitching line.

## Finishing

Fold under the binding on the sleeve overlap side, and leave the binding extended on the underlap side of the placket. Baste the overlap side binding in place at the sleeve lower edge.

To help keep the binding in place, stitch diagonally across the top of the binding to hold the layers together.

Apply the sleeve cuff following the pattern instructions. 📖